

60130-1396; 02MRA0126

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are presently pending in the application. Claims 1 and 9 are in independent form.

Claim 11 was objected to. Claims 4, 7 and 8 were rejected under §112, second paragraph. Applicant has amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner to overcome the objection and §112 rejections. Applicant kindly requests entry of these amendments.

Claims 1, 2, 4-9 and 11-15 were rejected under §103 over de Concourt et al. in view of Pees et al. Claims 1-4, 8-11 and 15 were rejected under §103 over Young in view of Merkle. The Examiner has maintained the rejections as argued in the prior office action. In the response to Arguments Section on page 6 of the September 11, 2006 Office Action, the Examiner emphasizes that the art used in making the §103 rejections is analogous. The Examiner then concludes that the limitations provided by the secondary reference "would be a suitable component to replace" an element from the primary reference.

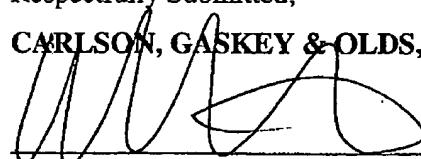
The Examiner's §103 rejections are improper. The Examiner appears to equate the idea of references being analogous as meaning the references automatically render a claimed invention obvious if all the elements are found. Applicant agrees the references are analogous. Analogous art merely means that the references are eligible for consideration in making an obviousness rejection. Analogous art does not establish that elements in the references are necessarily suitable replacement components. The Examiner must look at the teachings of the references as a whole and establish that there is some sort of suggestion or motivation to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the base reference to include the missing limitations. The Examiner has not done so for the reasons set forth in Applicant's prior amendment. Accordingly, the rejection is improper and must be withdrawn.

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It is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. If any fees or extensions of time are required, please charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Dated: November 13, 2006